

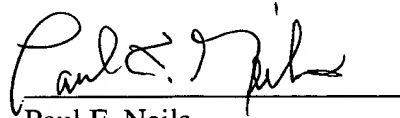
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No. To be assigned

Attorney Docket No. Q66223

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are made in order to remove multiple dependencies and avoid the Government surcharge. Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul F. Neils

Registration No. 33,102

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: September 27, 2001

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The title is changed as follows:

~~CAROUSEL MACHINE FOR THE TREATMENT OF HOLLOW CONTAINERS~~
~~COMPRISING AN ADVANCED PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION CIRCUIT~~ CONVEYOR FOR
TREATING HOLLOW BODIES COMPRISING AN ADVANCED PRESSURE
DISTRIBUTION CIRCUIT

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Machine according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the means of distribution (18) are such that at least one station (12) of a group might be connected to an associated source (A1), while at least one station (13) of another group is connected to its own associated source (A2).

4. (Amended) Machine according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the swivel coupling involves as many routes as the machine has sources for separately feeding the groups of stations, and in that the means of distribution include, downstream of the rotating coupling, some individual valves associated with each station.

5. (Amended) Machine according to ~~any of the preceding claims from 1 through 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the sealed swivel coupling is realized under the form of a rotating distributor (18) involving two coaxial crowns, the one stationary (20) and the other rotating (22), which are in contact with each other in a sealed manner at adjacent contact surfaces (24, 26), in that the rotating crown (22) involves some communication ports (28, 29), which are each connected to a station (12, 13), which are distributed in at least as many series as the machine has sources for the said stage; and which terminate in the contact surface (26) of the rotating

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crown (22), and in that the ports of one same series, all correspond to stations of one same group, and follow the same trajectory, while the ports of the two different series follow different trajectories, in that the stationary crown (20) implies some lights (34, 35) which are connected to a pressure source (A1, A2), each of which terminates at the contact surface (24) of the stationary crown (20) in such a way as to be on the trajectory of a series of ports (28, 29) of the rotating crown (22), of such a kind that one station is connected to a pressure source when the corresponding port is to be found in line with a light associated with this source, in that the stationary crown implies at least as many distinct series of at least one light, as the number of the series of ports, and in that the two sources of pressure (A1, A2) are each connected to a light of two distinct series of lights (34, 35) of the stationary crown (20).

10. (Amended) Machine according to ~~one of the claims 8 or 9~~ claim 8, characterized in that the lights (34, 35) corresponding to two independent and equivalent sources of pressure (A1, A2), and utilized for said stage, are fitted with an angular displacement (α) and on different diameters, corresponding respectively to the diameters of circles according to which the series of ports (28, 29) are fitted, corresponding to the said sources.

12. (Amended) Machine according to ~~any of the claims 5 through 11~~ claim 5, characterized by the fact that this treatment implies a second stage, during which the treatment stations (12, 13) are connected, by means of a rotating distributor (18), with the secondary sources of pressure (B1, B2) to attain a second level of pressure, in that the stationary crown (20) involves, by extending each of the first lights (34, 35), secondary lights (36, 37) which are connected each to a second pressure source (B1, B2), and that the two lights ([34, 36], [35, 37]) associated with the same series of ports (28, 29) are separated by an angular displacement (δ) which prevents the simultaneous connection of one port with two lights.

13. (Amended) Machine according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the sources of pressure (A1, A2) are at a pressure less than atmospheric pressure.

14. (Amended) Machine, according to ~~any one of the claims above~~ claim 1, characterized in that the treatment includes a stage for which a cold, low-pressure plasma is created, for the purpose of coating the hollow container, in that the treatment includes at least one pumping stage for lowering the internal pressure of the treatment station, and in that the independent and equivalent pressure sources which allow for the realization of the pumping stage, consist of at least two pumps (A1, A2).

18. (Amended) Distributor according to ~~any one of the claims from 15 through 17~~ claim 15, characterized in that the ports (28, 29) of one same series are distributed angularly in a regular manner around the axis of rotation (X-X), and in that the ports of the two different series involving the same number of ports are intercalated angularly.

19. (Amended) Distributor according to ~~one of the claims 17 or 18~~ claim 17, characterized in that the lights (34, 35) corresponding to two sources of pressure (A1, A2) are fitted on the same angular displacement (α) and on the different diameters corresponding respectively to the diameters of the circles according to which are fitted the series of ports (28, 29) corresponding to the said sources.

20. (Amended) Distributor according to ~~one of the claims 17 through 19~~ claim 17, characterized in that two consecutive ports of one same series (28, 29), are separated by an angular displacement (β) at least equal to the angular displacement (α) on which is fitted the light (34, 35) corresponding to the said series of ports.

21. (Amended) Distributor according to ~~any one of the claims 15 through 20~~ claim 15, characterized in that the stationary crown includes, for each series of lights, at least two more lights (34, 36), the one following the other, and in that these two lights (34, 36) of one same series, are separated by an angular displacement (δ) preventing the simultaneous connection one port with two lights.

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